Mitchell, Charles Hamilton (& Mrs. Mitchell)

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December 8th, 1917

Lt.-Colonel C. F. Mitchell, C.M.G., D.S.O.,

General Staff,

H.Q. B.E.F.,

Italy.

My dear Colonel Mitchell:

I was very much interested in getting a note from Mrs. Mitchell this week saying that you have gone to Italy. I congratulate you on this high mark of confidence that the War Office has placed in you. It must be a terrible task that you are undertaking along with General Plumer, for I should suppose that the most [illegible] in the whole front is now in north Italy.

[illegible] as though General Byng is now secure, but does it not [illegible]ough his forces had gone too far ? It may be, however, [illegible]ter of so many Germans has been in itself a victory.

[illegible]agine that you will be full of all kinds of anxiety [illegible]front and that you will be working under great pressure [illegible]. The arrival of the British and French troops will I [illegible]ven increased confidence to the Italians and with their [illegible]outtful I should think if there will be any more [illegible]ing. If you have time to drop me a line, even giving [illegible]ation of the kind of work you are doing I should greatl[illegible] though I know that what you send home has to be very [illegible]dered.

There is a little incident which I must tell you about. I got a

C/Board of Inland Revenue
Somerset House
London - Nov. 19.4.17.

Dear Sir Robert

In reading [illegible]
[illegible] is [illegible]
regarded [illegible] re-valuation
of the Empire made [illegible]
for Income Tax [illegible] 6 years [illegible]
[illegible] 6 [illegible] years. We have [illegible]
and there [illegible] to take charge of the [illegible]
book [illegible] in London, for the whole
B.E.F. in Italy. Where [illegible] visit
to [illegible] War Office has shown
great confidence in [illegible]
Irving under my [illegible] kept

him in every possible way? Have given him unexpected wide powers. He goes with a strong, cheerful heart in his great task which inspires confidence & with a General whose continued successes in France has made him outstanding. He has as personal interpreter an English M.P. to whom Italy is well-known.

Just for the present I think my husband would like what I have told you to be confidential.

For yourself & Lady Falconer our warmest regards, including Walter. I am enclosing a card with address.

Yours sincerely

Edyth E. Whitehead

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General Staff,
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My dear Colonel Mitchell:

I was very much interested in getting a note from Mrs. Mitchell this week saying that you have gone to Italy. I congratulate you on this high mark of confidence that the War Office has placed in you. It must be a terrible task that you are undertaking along with General Plummer, for I should suppose that the most critical point in the whole front is now in north Italy.

It looks to us as though General Byng is now secure, but does it not seem also as though his forces had gone too far ? It may be, however, that the slaughter of so many Germans has been in itself a victory.

I can well imagine that you will be full of all kinds of anxiety on the Italian front and that you will be working under great pressure from now on. The arrival of the British and French troops will I suppose have given increased confidence to the Italians and with their backing it is doubtful I should think if there will be any more essential yielding. If you have time to drop me a line, even giving a general indication of the kind of work you are doing I should greatly appreciate it, though I know that what you send home has to be very carefully considered.

There is a little incident which I must tell you about. I got a

letter the other day from the Headquarters of the Royal Flying Corps saying that a self-recording barometer from a German machine was in possession of one of our professors and in fact he gave a description of it in the "Evening Telegram". The Flying Corps people were very indignant as to how it came here because no one was allowed to send anything. They made a great fuss about it. I learned on inquiry who the professor was and that it came from a certain high placed Intelligence Officer of the Second British Army on the Western front. It seemed to me to be rather a tempest in a teapot. I met General Hoare a few days afterwards. He is head of the Flying Corps and I told him that I had found out that it was an Officer in a very high position who had sent it out and he was very much exercised to find out the name. I told him, however, that I would not peach , but that I would write to the Officer in question and tell him that some way or other a portion of a German Flying Machine has reached Toronto. If you happen to meet that Officer or some one like him you might tell him for me.

I am afraid that before this reaches you Christmas will be past and in the present circumstances it is almost ironical to wish you a happy Christmas. However, I can hope at least that before another Christmas comes you will be back home and installed in our Faculty of Applied Science.

At present we are greatly distressed over the disaster in Halifax. It seems to be greater even than we at first thought it was, and the poor old city is in an agony of suffering. I am thankful that our ow immediate friends have escaped because they were quite a distance from

the scene of disaster.

In atout another ten days we have our Dominion election. All my friends as far as I know are very anxious and are using their influence for the Government. I am told that things are improving and the hope is that the next week will make a great change. Mr. Powell has been giving splendid speeches. I have never read anything better from him or as good. I hear also that the meetings are large and extremely earnest, so that although we are anxious we are full of good hope. With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.